

Message Text

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21

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-06 EUR-12 NEA-09 RSC-01 ISO-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 ACDA-05 DPW-01

AID-05 OES-03 OIC-02 /111 W
----- 091599

R 291538Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0346

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 0261

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PARM, ICRC, VN, VS, POIP, WMO, NO, DA

SUBJECT: PRG AND LOW

REF: STATE 020101 AND 017444

SUMMARY: CHARGE REITERATED TO BOTH MFA LEGAL ADVISER
AND ACTING POLITICAL DIRECTOR OUR DESIRE THAT DENMARK JOIN
IN SUPPORTING APPLICATION OF RULE 32 IF THE PRG ISSUE IS AGAIN
RAISED AT THE LOW CONFERENCE. NEITHER OFFICIAL WOULD COMMIT
HIMSELF BEYOND SAYING THAT THE DANES WERE CONSIDERING THEIR
POSITION AT A HIGH LEVEL AND WERE SEEKING INFORMATION ABOUT
THE INTENTIONS OF THEIR EC PARTENERS. IF THE SUBSTANTIVE ISSUE
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CAME TO A VOTE, THE DANES WOULD ABSTAIN AS THEY DID

LAST YEAR. END SUMMARY.

1. PRIOR TO RECEIPT OF REFTELS, CHARGE HAD AGAIN TAKEN UP WITH LEGAL ADVISER FERGO QUESTION OF PRG REPRESENTATION IN LOW AND INQUIRED WHETHER THE DANES HAD YET MADE A DECISION ON THE PROCEDURAL HANDLING OF THE QUESTION. FERGO REPLIED THAT THEY HAD NOT. HE ADDED THAT HE HIMSELF "COULD ARGUE IT EITHER WAY", TO WHICH CHARGE REJOINED THAT WE HOPED THE DANES WOULD SEE IT OUR WAY. FERGO SAID THAT THE QUESTION OF HOW THEY WOULD HANDLE THE PROCEDURAL PROBLEM WAS UNDER CONSIDERATION AT A HIGH LEVEL. HE THOUGHT IT WAS ALSO BEING DISCUSSED AT THIS WEEK'S MEETING OF WESTERN LEGAL OFFICIALS IN LONDON, AT WHICH DENMARK WAS REPRESENTED BY ONE OF HIS DEPUTIES, RECHNAGEL.

2. AFTER RECEIVING REFTELS, CHARGE CALLED ON ACTING POLITICAL DIRECTOR OLE BIERRING (WITH THE FALL OF THE GOVERNMENT LAST NIGHT, OLE GULDBERG IS NOW ONLY A CARETAKER FOREIGN MINISTER AND NOT INVOLVED IN "POLITICAL" DECISIONS). BIERRING SAID THAT THE DANES WERE WELL AWARE OF OUR POSITION. BEFORE DETERMING THEIR POSITION ON THE PROCEDURAL ISSUE THEY WANTED TO OBTAIN INFORMATION "FROM SOME OTHER GOVERNMENTS", WHICH HE ADMITTED MEANT THAT THEY WOULD LIKE TO COORDINATE THEIR POLICY AS CLOSELY AS POSSIBLE WITH THEIR EC PARTNERS AND THE OTHER NORDICS. THEY THOUGHT THEY WOULD OBTAIN THE INFORMATION THEY REQUIRED FROM THE LEGAL MEETING IN LONDON, WHICH FERGO HAD MENTIONED, AND FROM THE NORDIC CONSULTATIONS JAN. 29 IN OSLO. BIERRING SAID THAT THE DANISH POSITION HAD BEEN DISCUSSED WITH GULDBERG AND WOULD BE TAKEN UP AGAIN AT A HIGH LEVEL AFTER INFORMATION ON THE POSITION OF OTHERS HAD BEEN RECEIVED. ALTHOUGH HE WOULD NOT COMMIT HIMSELF -- OR EVEN PREDICT -- HOW THE DANES WOULD REACT ON THE PROCEDURAL QUESTION, BIERRING SAID THAT WE COULD BE "CERTAIN" THAT THEY WOULD ABSTAIN ON SUBSTANCE.

3. COMMENT: IT IS CLEAR THAT THE DANES ARE TREADING WATER ON THE PROCEDURAL ISSUE UNTIL THEY FIND OUT WHAT THEIR NEIGHBORS, PARTICULARLY THE EC COUNTRIES, ARE GOING TODO. THEIR POSITION OF ABSTENTION ON SUBSTANCE APPEARS FIRM BUT HOW THEY WILL REACT ON THE PROCEDURAL QUESTION IS STILL UNCLEAR.
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THE FACT THAT GULDBERG WILL NOT PARTICIPATE IN SUCH DECISIONS IN THE FUTURE IS NOT GOOD NEWS SINCE HIS REACTION ON QUESTIONS SUCH AS THOSE INVOLVING THE PRG HAS USUALLY BEEN EHLPFUL.
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